

THE
COMMUNISTS'
MANIFESTO



CAPITALISM IS THE PROBLEM.
**SOCIALISM IS
THE SOLUTION.**



VOTE
COMMUNIST
6 MAY 2021

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THE 2021 COMMUNIST ELECTION CAMPAIGN AIMS TO MOBILISE WORKING-CLASS PEOPLE – THOSE WHO HAVE TO WORK FOR A LIVING – AND THEIR FAMILIES AGAINST PRECARIOUS WORK AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND TO FIGHT FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF LOCAL TRANSPORT SERVICES AND UTILITIES, FULL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND A SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN PAY, PENSIONS AND BENEFITS.

OUR CANDIDATES ARE MAKING THE CASE FOR POWERS TO BE RETURNED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHERE THESE CAN BE MADE MORE ACCOUNTABLE, WITH FUNDING TO SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMIES AND BUILD COUNCIL HOUSING. WE WANT WORKING PEOPLE TO BE THE DECISION-MAKERS, NOT THE BILLIONAIRE ONE PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WHO DOMINATE OUR LIVES.

THE PROBLEM IS CAPITALISM **THE SOLUTION IS SOCIALISM**

**ALL-BRITAIN MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOR
ELECTIONS TO THE 2021 WELSH SENEDD, SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT,
LONDON ASSEMBLY AND ENGLISH LOCAL COUNCILs**

THIS IS SOCIALISM

Long term investment
Economic planning
Full employment
A world-class NHS
Homes for all
Green energy
Redistribution of wealth
Food for all
Affordable public transport
An end to racism
Equality for women
A future for youth
Dignity in old age
Real democracy
Social justice
Peace

THIS IS CAPITALISM

Crisis and austerity
Insecurity
Unemployment
Privatised health and social care
Homelessness
A climate emergency
Poverty
Foodbanks
Unaffordable public transport
Racism
Oppression of women
Education debt
Fear of old age
Monopoly power
Crime and corruption
Militarism and war

The Communist Party is standing candidates throughout Wales, in Scotland and the counties of England in parliamentary and local elections this year on bold, popular and progressive policies.

You won't read about our candidates in newspapers or hear about them on TV channels. The billionaire media owners don't like political parties that refuse to be bought out!

Many of you will not have had an opportunity to vote Communist before. We ask you to take a short while to read what we stand for.

We welcome scrutiny by young voters. Senedd elections in Wales and parliamentary elections in Scotland will allow 16 year olds to vote. The Communists have long campaigned for voting rights to be extended to all 16 year olds for all elections. We especially ask new and first time voters to read on to find out what Communists advocate and how we intend to achieve their aims.

In the last 18 months the Communist Party has grown significantly and is opening new branches in different parts of Britain. There may well be a local branch near you. Last year we celebrated our centenary: 100 years of struggle to improve the lives of working people. If you want to find out more about our campaigns, policies and membership go to www.communistparty.org.uk

THE CHALLENGE FACING WORKING-CLASS COMMUNITIES

The Tory government in Westminster, and to a lesser extent the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales, bear a heavy responsibility for the carnage caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

So far, we have experienced more than 126,000 Covid-related deaths across Britain. Up to 400,000 have contracted Long Covid, hundreds of thousands of people are on NHS waiting lists, and more than one million workers have lost their jobs amid a total disruption of daily life.

Why? Because governments valued big business interests and profits over public health, failing to impose lockdowns soon enough or long enough, not closing borders to international travel and refusing to implement a locally-managed 'Find, Test, Trace, Isolate and Support' system from the outset, as the World Health Organisation recommended.

As a result, Britain has had one of the highest Covid death rates in the world, below only the Czech Republic, Belgium, Montenegro, Hungary, Slovenia and two micro-states as of March 2021.

Most other developed and developing countries have fared much better, especially those — notably socialist China, Vietnam and Cuba — that mobilised their people behind sweeping public safety measures early enough.

Not surprisingly, this mishandling of the Covid-19 pandemic and Britain's deepest recession in 300 years have led to a renewed interest in socialism as an alternative to a capitalist system of insecurity, greed, waste, crisis and austerity.

Austerity made the public pay the bill for the 2008 financial crash and robbed the NHS of vital investment to meet the challenge of an epidemic. This time, Communists argue, we need a bailout for the people not the banks.

Millions voted in the June 2016 referendum on EU membership, the 2017 and 2019 general elections for real and enduring change. They wanted to break with the failures and misgovernment of the richest 10% of the population who own more than half of Britain's personal wealth. Despite setbacks, we urge people not to give up on change.

Some voters now despair of developments in the Labour Party. Communists believe socialism remains both popular and a possibility and that socialist measures — many outlined in this Manifesto — are exactly what is needed as we emerge from a pandemic into a major economic crisis.

A vote for the Communists ensures that the Red Flag continues to fly.

EMERGING FROM COVID-19

Communists have repeatedly warned that, as we overcome Covid, the peoples of Britain face a ruling-class onslaught on jobs and living standards in order to slash government borrowing, sustain the Pound, reduce the 'National Debt' and boost corporate profits.

The Tory government has so far announced measures costing £407 billion to sustain the British economy during the Covid crisis. Most of this has been allocated to business in the form of grants, loans, job subsidies and tax holidays.

This is the biggest bail-out of British capitalism in peace-time history. During and after the 2008 crash, £1,100 billion was made available to bail out the City of London's banks and markets, although two-thirds of this was recouped or not used. The question today is: who will pay for this latest bail-out?

Working people and their families have already endured four decades of extreme free-market policies. Millions of jobs are now precarious, part-time, short-term or zero-hours. Most public sector workers have suffered a ten-year wage freeze. In the private and public sectors, pension entitlements have been slashed.

Having risked their lives to protect us all during the pandemic, NHS staff are now offered an insulting 1% pay increase. Other public sector workers face yet another real-terms pay freeze, while other essential front-line workers will receive no more than a 21p an hour rise in the National Living Wage.

Yet Chancellor Rishi Sunak's 2021 Spring Budget signalled his intention to pay down much of the government's fiscal deficit from taxes on the mass of the population, initially by freezing tax allowances.

Significantly, the introduction of a higher rate of Corporation Tax (with special protection for bank profits) is not scheduled until 2023. That means two years in which the Tory government can change tack; two years in which big business can conceal, minimise or transfer its profits elsewhere.

More recently, the Integrated Defence Review demonstrated the real values and priorities of the British ruling class and its Tory government. Whereas Chancellor Sunak's spending plans represent a real-terms cut of around £16 billion a year after next year, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, military spending is going to rise by £4 billion a year on average.

The New Cold War declared by the US and Britain against China and Russia will involve a 50% increase in Britain's number of nuclear warheads as part of a Trident renewal programme costing £205 billion.

Great news for the arms manufacturers and the military chiefs. Bad news for everyone else and for the future of world peace.

Those who have done so well out of our rigged economic system — the billionaires, the bankers, the tax dodgers, the speculators, Tory Party donors — are going to escape their fair share of the burden yet again. Unless we stop them.

As unemployment rises, foodbanks multiply, house evictions increase and poverty grows, they will tell you how bad socialism and communism would be.

THE REAL PROBLEM IS THEIR SYSTEM — CAPITALISM

Six million people in Britain rely on Universal Credit to survive day-to-day. Many have seen their incomes cut and the £20 a week emergency uplift is scheduled to end in September. More than four million children — almost one in every three — live in poverty and that number is rising once more. Working-class women have borne the brunt of years of cuts to the public services they use whilst carrying a double burden of work, often in low paid jobs, and being the main family carer, made worse by COVID-19 restrictions on being able to seek vital help and support. Women, young people and our most vulnerable and disadvantaged families need help now.

Nor should we forget those millions of people who carry out essential caring work for elderly, frail or incapacitated family members, friends and neighbours for free. Many live in poverty themselves, unwilling or unable to earn a living wage for themselves because of their caring commitment. That is why the Communist Party puts forward a programme which protects working people, the unemployed and their families, instead of

punishing them for the faults of the capitalist market economy. Urgent action is required to guarantee employment, incomes, housing and food security.

As a start, therefore, we demand:

- A substantial increase in public investment in housing, transport, R&D and sustainable energy.
- A link between government support to business and the retention of jobs.
- A shorter working week with no loss of pay, creating more jobs in return for tax relief.
- An above-inflation pay rise for all public sector workers who protected us during the coronavirus crisis and a rise in the National Living Wage to £10.40 an hour (two-thirds of median male earnings) rather than £8.91.
- Consolidation of the £20 uplift in Universal Credit into the basic rates.
- Urgent consideration of a Social Wage for carers.
- No foreclosure on home owners and a cap on rents.

The Chancellor's budget indicated that the Tory government's priorities lie elsewhere. In particular, core funding for local government remains at historically low levels. Councils have permission to spend more without having to hold a local referendum — but only by financing most of the extra spending from inflation-busting Council Tax rises. As many as four-fifths of local authorities intend to take this route in the 2020-21 financial year. Others have been bribed by government grants to keep down their Council Tax rates and allow local services to deteriorate still further.

The expansion of the Towns Fund has been widely criticised since it was revealed that most of the 45 beneficiaries from government development grants are represented by Conservative MPs. The new 'Freeports' scheme will put yet more government grants, loans and tax allowances into the coffers of private businesses.

Significantly, the Office for Budget Responsibility has pointed out that the Westminster government's spending plans beyond 2022 do not take sufficient account of the impact of the pandemic's legacy on public services. There appears to be no extra provision for the knock-on costs of new vaccination programmes, preparations to deal with a major new epidemic, education recovery measures and substantial rail, bus and aviation subsidies.

THE NHS AND ELDERLY CARE

The Covid crisis has not only demonstrated how precious our NHS and its workers are. It has also exposed how much damage a decade of austerity and privatisation has done to our health and elderly care systems.

Exercise Cygnus (2016) in England and Cygnet (2015) in Wales had indicated the need for contingency planning, extra intensive care unit beds and substantial supplies of PPE and medical ventilators to deal with a serious epidemic in the future.

Yet civil emergency planning resources continued to be cut, ICU beds disappeared, surplus stocks of PPE for hospital staff were sold off to raise money and Britain's capacity to manufacture medical ventilators continued to dwindle. By 2020, the Tory government had to look to China and other countries to rush ventilators and other vital equipment to Britain as troops and local council workers built makeshift ICU units. The delays caused thousands of unnecessary deaths, including of NHS staff.

In the privatised elderly care sector, it was a similar story. Staff and residents died in their thousands, especially in badly managed homes with poorly trained staff, despite the efforts of many workers and managers.

The lessons should be clear.

All measures to weaken, break up, commercialise or privatise the NHS must be halted and reversed. The objective must be to drive profiteering out of the NHS, while involving workers and users more closely in consultative and administrative functions.

The measures proposed in Exercises Cygnet and Cygnus must be implemented in full, making a top priority of the necessary investment in civil emergency preparations and home-based production of essential equipment and capacity.

All NHS staff should receive an immediate above-inflation pay rise in tribute to their courage and dedication.

Elderly care must be brought back into the public sector as a matter of urgency, with funding for local councils to help re-establish a national network of affordable residential homes in their area.

Elderly care in England should be integrated with NHS healthcare and local government social services, following best practice now being pioneered in Scotland and Wales.

Urgent steps should be taken to ensure that all elderly care staff receive adequate training and at least the statutory minimum wage.

Additionally, there is a crisis in the availability of affordable dental and eye care in numerous local communities. Communists call for this provision to be brought back into the NHS.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY AND JOBS

The fight for jobs with dignity, equality and rights at work is a cornerstone of CP policy. Recent events have demonstrated that government and local councils have a key role in sustaining jobs, greening work processes and ensuring that work provides sufficient income to allow workers and families to plan their future and contribute to the community.

We seek additional powers for the Welsh and Scottish governments and the regions in England, so that each can play a powerful role in providing jobs and awarding large contracts to local companies employing skilled workers at union rates of pay. We want work to be located closer to where people live, allied to a significant boost to public transport, to help reduce our carbon footprint.

It is important to provide training and retraining programmes for workers of all ages, especially women and black and minority ethnic workers, thereby helping their entry into more skilled, secure and better-paid jobs. If we boost funding for local technical colleges and regional community

colleges and put this behind a programme of lifting skills, everyone would benefit. Retired workers would be encouraged to participate in such training programmes.

Employment led by the public sector would make it possible to collaborate, experiment with new ways of working and plan, thereby avoiding duplication and competition which only leads to a waste of resources.

Free from EU 'free movement of capital' rules, local and devolved government could direct corporate and public investment where it's needed. Profits which otherwise find their way into the offshore accounts of capitalists, could be reinvested in the real, productive economy to increasing the quantity and quality of jobs for young and first-time workers.

Big business seeks to play the workers of Wales, Scotland and England off against each other in the struggle for jobs. Public sector collaboration across the three nations and a policy of positive procurement strategies could help keep this in check and even eliminate it. Having exited the EU, we can write our own rules if people demand that governments and local authorities cooperate rather than compete.

Such cooperation is the economic and political essence of a new kind of Britain based on socialism.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Our society faces a global environmental catastrophe caused by the continued extraction and burning of fossil fuels. Global warming, climate change, crop failure, rising sea levels and economic devastation are among the results, made worse by reckless development driven by profit.

The effects are felt locally in the form of storms, more frequent floods, accelerated coastal erosion, continuing river and sea pollution, an over-reliance on waste incineration and landfill, and much else besides.

A huge expansion of wind, tidal, geothermal and solar power is vital to meet strict targets for phasing out carbon emissions. Policies should include installing solar panels in all large and new public and private sector

buildings and harnessing river estuary tidal power through lagoon and submarine turbine technology.

As an interim measure in the transition to a low-carbon economy, Britain's substantial deep-mined coal reserves could be utilised but only with clean-coal and carbon capture technology. This would provide an alternative to the massive open-cast developments which scar the landscape and blight nearby communities through traffic and other pollution. Likewise, fracking for shale gas or oil threatens these and other harmful consequences and should be banned.

The reliance of successive British governments on nuclear fission as a source of energy remains a costly, dangerous and hugely irresponsible option. The consequences of large-scale radioactive contamination are calamitous. Decommissioning obsolete plant is enormously expensive. Eliminating or storing waste safely and permanently cannot yet be done. There is every reason to believe that the expansion of Britain's civilian nuclear power industry is not so much to do with cutting carbon emissions — and more about maintaining the availability of specialised skills and plutonium for an expanded nuclear weapons .

The Communist Party believes that research and development of nuclear fusion — a safer technology not linked to nuclear weapons — should continue and remain within the public sector.

There should be a 'just transition' for workers in carbon-intensive industries to jobs in sustainable, low-carbon ones. The enormous public money R&D used up by a bloated armaments industry would be better deployed in the manufacture of socially useful products, utilising the skills of the workforce, assisted by retraining programmes where necessary.

There should be more central funding for local programmes of energy efficiency and conservation — including neighbourhood solar energy schemes — and of 'green' waste disposal, reduction and recycling. These should include policies to support homeworking, to bring jobs closer to where people live and to encourage greater use of public rather than private transport.

A top priority must be to build an integrated and cheap public and freight transport system at local, regional and national levels, using clean and

renewable energy. This means not only building more and better buses, trams, trains and bikes, but also providing the facilities which make their use possible and desirable on a mass scale.

This also means a sustainable home-building programme which uses recycled materials and the latest conservation technology for water use, heating, cooling and energy supply.

Such a 'Green New Deal' would create more than 500,000 new jobs spread across every nation and region of Britain.

All this will require levels of democratic and accountable planning, coordination and control that are incompatible with private capitalist ownership of the economy and the relentless drive to maximise profit. In particular, social ownership of the transport and energy sectors — including municipal ownership where appropriate — will be essential in order to plan and develop resources sustainably.

In its 15th Report, the UN International Panel on Climate Change proposed 'rapid and far-reaching transformations' in the world's energy, transport and food systems by 2030. In other words, our planet and its people need socialism.

SECURITY OF WORK AND HOME

The number of working poor in Britain rose by 51% between 2010 to 2019. Only in three other European countries is the statutory minimum wage below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold — 60% of national median income. In England, Wales and Scotland, two million workers earn less than the minimum wage. Many of these workers kept our services running during the worst days of the Covid lockdowns.

The capitalist system is built on putting profits before people. It brings insecurity and inequality into every home. It allows big business to grow richer, at the expense of the rest of us. But it does not have to be this way.

JOB SECURITY

The Communist Party campaigns for investment in high-skill, high paying jobs which benefit everyone and provide us with an economy that is both fair and sustainable.

There is widespread job and housing uncertainty, with many more households now closer to the financial edge than in the wake of the financial crash back in 2008.

Communists rely on the collective culture and instincts of working-class communities. No-one knows their industries better than those who do the work, and no-one knows their communities better than those who live in them.

A jobs-led recovery programme including an All-Britain Recovery Council allied to a series of regional development councils — which some unions have already started to campaign for — offers an opportunity to think a decade ahead, to plan investment in industries, skills and jobs. The employing class has brought us close to disaster too many times. Let working people decide things instead.

In our view, workers must have a collective say over the decisions shaping their future in an advanced and sustainable economy.

A CHARTER FOR HOUSING

The Communist Party's Charter for Housing calls for a new approach to meet the needs and aspirations of the peoples of England, Scotland and Wales. The priorities must be to eradicate sub-standard housing, overcrowding and homelessness; not to create super-profits for landowners, developers, their shareholders and bankers.

Across the nations, progressive housing strategies are needed which address the problems of finance, development, regulation, standards, vacant properties, homelessness and tenants' rights.

We support organisations at local, regional and national level that campaign for improved tenants' rights and for housing development to be locally-controlled and based on assessed housing need.

Official statistics suggest that 325,000 new homes per year are required simply to meet demand caused by demographic change. This would not tackle the current backlog, and yet this level of house building has not been achieved since 1970. Meanwhile there are over 240,000 homes which have been empty for more than six months throughout Britain.

All social housing should be brought back under direct and accountable local authority control, with adequate funding and the re-establishment of direct labour organisations.

In Scotland and Wales, local authorities need to be given the financial backing to turn their notional powers on housing quality and the private-rented sector into levers for change.

There is also a need across England for effective rent, quality and ownership controls in the private sector, together with increased rights for tenants and their organisations.

Discrimination in housing law should be ended. Free or affordable sheltered accommodation and residential care must be available for the elderly, together with free domestic fuel and public transport.

Communists campaign for reform of housing finance to enable a mass council housing development programme, which would mean:

- Building many more affordable homes with security of tenure.
- Regenerating or replacing run-down council estates.
- Ending sales of public land to private developers.
- Using more Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) where necessary.
- Taxing owners of vacant land and properties more steeply.
- Removing benefits for international and corporate purchasers of residential property.
- Establishing national and local savings institutions that specialise in housing finance and support national and local housing strategies.

The Communists propose to make the provision of suitable accommodation for all homeless households a real statutory duty, in order to end rough sleeping, repeal the Bedroom Tax and restore full housing benefit for all under 35s.

Our party's Charter for Housing recommends local caps on private sector rent levels, subject to national limits, and abolishing the 'right to buy' in England. In response to Covid we argue for a freeze on social housing rents and extending the Coronavirus ban on evictions for at least 12 months.

We want councils to be able to act together to enhance their role in wider and longer-term planning, armed with the powers to stand up to developers.

UNITY AGAINST RACISM

Capitalism exploits, oppresses and divides people. Yet we have all been affected by the gross mishandling of the health crisis. In many streets, workplaces and communities it has brought people closer together in the face of such adversity.

At the same time, we should recognise that Black and minority ethnic communities have suffered a higher than average number of Covid-related deaths and job losses over the past 12 months.

In large part, this reflects the reality that our BME fellow citizens are more likely to work in unsafe, frontline and low-paid jobs such in the health, elderly care and retail sectors and to live in unhealthy and overcrowded accommodation. They have to struggle against extra exploitation, discrimination and prejudice.

The Tory government is still deporting Black people who have a right to be here. Communists demand that such deportations cease and that the government acts on the recommendations of the Windrush and other independent inquiries.

National governments and local authorities have the ability to challenge racism in schools and other public institutions, following the lead set by the Welsh government's Black History initiative.

Public authorities can act to improve health standards and access to health care in the most disadvantaged sections of the population.

Central and local government, the HMRC and trade unions can do more to stamp out the super-exploitation of migrant workers. An amnesty for illegal immigrants and overstayers would do much undermine the illicit labour market with its low pay, sweated labour and unsafe working conditions. Asylum claimants should be permitted to work and have their cases dealt with more speedily, without incarceration in inhumane camps.

In our local communities, slum landlords who exploit migrant and illicit workers should be challenged. Heavy-handed policing must give way to a more consultative and sensitive approach.

The Communists Party will strive to bring communities and people together in the common fight against racism and for a socialist society.

A FUTURE FOR OUR YOUNG CITIZENS

Many of our young citizens have struggled to make sense of Covid-19 and the dramatic and speedy changes the pandemic has brought with it. We are living through an epidemic in mental health problems among young people.

Many face the prospect of low-paid, precarious and unfulfilling work, poverty pay, inadequate apprenticeships or a dead-end job in the gig economy.

College and university students have to work long hours to support themselves. Tuition fees have made debt the first adult experience of their lives. This is shameful.

Even those who find work struggle to find a home in their local community, near family or in areas they really want to live in. Home ownership for the younger generation is often a pipe-dream or a question of inheritance.

Violent crime and anti-social behaviour have been escalating across our society, with a disproportionate impact on young people themselves.

But we must not allow this to become the first generation in the modern era to live a worse life than those who have gone before. Even in the face of adversity, young people still want a brighter future.

Communists call for free access to council-run leisure centres and facilities, with efforts to encourage regular use among all young people.

There should also be free entry to all museums and historical sites for under-30s. The reopening and expansion of youth centres will also be essential as we emerge from the Covid lockdowns, giving young people a friendly, open place to gather and socialise outside school or work.

The negative impact of austerity on library and leisure facilities and services also needs to be reversed, with special grants available to ensure adequate access for our disabled fellow citizens. In rural and inner city areas, councils should establish internet and digital service hubs opening up free access to people without wifi.

Young Communists are calling for national schemes to allow under 30s to visit theatre performances for free every month, together with free access to youth theatre and drama classes.

Of course, this will only be made possible by an emergency and longer-term injection of funds into the youth and community services devastated by a decade of short-sighted public spending cuts.

The Young Communist League is the fastest growing political youth organisation in Britain. Celebrating its 100th anniversary, the YCL has begun its biggest campaign in decades to win support for its Youth Charter (<https://ycl.org.uk/youth-charter/>).

The aims of the Charter include:

- 1** A real living wage with an end to casualisation and age discrimination in pay.
- 2** A new apprenticeship system and real jobs with trade union and employment rights.
- 3** More council housing and private sector rent controls.
- 4** Public transport network cards for young people with capped, affordable prices.
- 5** Free college and university education.

- 6** Free access to government and council cultural, leisure and sports facilities.
- 7** Free access to all NHS Healthcare and improved mental and sexual health services.
- 8** The right to vote at 16.
- 9** An end to all forms of discrimination.
- 10** Campaigning to prevent climate change.

A FAIR START FOR ALL CHILDREN

The early years are foundational for children's learning and development throughout their life, yet the current funding model makes provision precarious and fragmented. Maintained nurseries are dwindling in number and private, voluntary and independent nurseries struggling to fill the gap.

Communists campaign for a new deal for children in their early years, with a sustainable funding model and full integration into a national education service from cradle to grave.

The early years education system should be of the highest quality, adequately staffed and free to all. Improving nursery and childcare provision and making it readily available, funded by the public and private sectors, will not only benefit children themselves. It will also make sure that women with children can escape casual work on the margins and obtain jobs in the mainstream of the economy.

The net gain to society of early years education is a proven fact. It improves social interaction skills and reduces anti-social and criminal behaviour in later life.

Early-year classes need qualified teachers and active support from local authorities. They serve as important hubs for parents in communities and resources can be shared with education facilities for new families.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Communist Party applauds the work done by education trade unionists to keep children safe during the pandemic.

Communists believe education is a basic right and should be funded through taxation. We campaign for the establishment of a National Education Service to bring together all pupils and students of every sector and age group into a unified system.

We aim to scrap privatisation policies, which set school against school and teacher against teacher, and undermine standards. All religious, trust and academy schools should be integrated into a unified, secular education system.

This must also include private fee-paying schools, ending the privileges bought by wealth. Quality education should not have a price tag attached.

All schools should be restored to democratic local authority control.

The number of young workers entering apprenticeship has been falling since 2015. Britain's Communists want to reverse this by raising the status of vocation-based training and work. A new government-backed apprenticeship system should be established, promoting real skills and real jobs with a real living wage, with 'day one' trade union and employment rights.

We call for:

- A statutory right to an apprenticeship or a two-year work placement on full wages for all school leavers up to the age of 25.
- Free college and university education for all courses.
- Replacement of student loans with a guaranteed bursary for all students.
- Reintroduction an extended Education Maintenance Allowance for students across Britain.

Well-educated workers should feel happy in their job and proud of their role in society.

After the Covid crisis, there can be no need for them to show how vital their work is to all of us. The power in Britain isn't the 'genius' capitalists who make profits in good times, only to cut and run when things go bad.

It's the ingenuity and skill of our workers, drawn together in a collective productive way. Yet so much labour is wasted and its potential untapped. Capitalism puts wealthy shareholders, bankers and speculators before the interests of workers, people and the good of society.

For Communists, on the other hand, working people should play the leading role in shaping the future of England, Scotland and Wales.

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Where will the money come from to implement the kind of policies in this Communist Manifesto?

In many ways, the Covid pandemic has changed the debate around government involvement in the economy and the role of the state and public institutions. Having been told by Tory and Labour governments for decades that in Britain — the sixth richest country in the world — that there is 'no magic money tree', it suddenly seems that it can be found.

The question is where the money should come from.

Our ambitious range of economic, social and cultural policies will have to be financed through a more progressive tax regime and revised public spending priorities. Communist Party policies would:

- Levy a windfall tax on companies that have made super-profits from this crisis including those who got Covid-19 contracts due to their links to top conservatives.

- Increase tax rates on higher rates of income. Taxing the wealth of the one-tenth of Britain's population with personal assets worth more than £6.5 trillion (around half of the total)

- Impose a 'Robin Hood' tax on City financial transactions.

Increase the rate of corporation tax on the profits of large companies.

- Close all tax havens under British jurisdiction.

- Develop more effective mechanisms to tackle tax avoidance and evasion by transnational companies and wealthy individuals.
- Cut or abolish VAT on essential goods and services.
- Replace the council tax with local income, wealth, land and property taxes based clearly on the ability to pay.
- Renegotiate and, where appropriate, cancel Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts in order to eliminate excessive corporate profiteering.
- Cut British military spending and end all state subsidies for arms exports.
- Regulate movements of capital in and out of Britain.

The Scottish and Welsh parliaments and local authorities must have greater freedom from central government and Whitehall to raise funds from the low-interest Public Works Loan Board and in the capital markets. As a result of Brexit, EU rules limiting the right of devolved and local government to award public procurement contracts locally no longer apply.

That new power should be used by the devolved parliaments, local councils and other public bodies to support jobs and businesses in their own local communities.

Leaving the EU also enables the Bank of England to extend credit and bond purchase facilities to devolved and local government and other public bodies, which should be made full use of when the terms are more favourable than in the 'free' market.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

The answer to austerity and unemployment, underemployment and zero-hours contracts is for workers to organise, organise, organise. The Communist Party urges all workers to join unions and seek collective solutions to workplace issues of low pay, bullying, speed-up, lack of contracts, job insecurity and long hours.

Organised workplaces are fairer, safer and have workforces that are better paid than non-unionised ones. It is the unions who have held the line in recent years against deregulation, privatisation, cuts to public and welfare services, low-paid and precarious employment and mass redundancies.

There are signs of a resurgence of union strength with successful campaigns against closure of Rolls Royce and against the ripping up of workers conditions of service in the gas industry and British Airways. Elsewhere, the shop workers' union has negotiated a pathbreaking deal at Morrisons and postal workers have secured advances in pay and conditions. If workers organise, attacks can be resisted and advances secured.

To achieve this, workers must be free from the shackles of anti-union laws. Therefore, Communist Party supports the adoption of a new Trade Union Freedom Act and applauds the small steps taken in this direction by the Welsh government and parliament.

Local authorities, too, must develop positive policies which respect collective agreements, encourage trade union membership and engage in consultation with unions on all matters affecting their members and all council employees.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY

Capitalism pays lip service to equal rights for women. Women make up half the population. Yet almost a hundred years since the vote was won for all women they are still underrepresented in Parliament and on local councils, receive less pay than men on average and are much more likely to suffer serious domestic abuse and injury than men. The situation for Black and Asian women in society and work is far worse, as they must contend with racism too.

Cuts in benefits and welfare, closure of children and family centres, attacks on abortion rights, rising levels of violence in the home and on the streets have put working-class women in Britain in a desperate plight.

Communists demand adequate funding for local authorities to support agencies providing protection for women under threat, prioritising their safety and welfare.

The Communist Party believes only a fundamental change to a socialist system will transform the lives of women economically and socially for the better, ending racism and misogyny through a public education programme.

DEMOCRACY

Under capitalism the struggle to retain and advance democratic rights is never-ending. This struggle is at its most fierce in the economy, with a day by day contest for representation of workers' interests at workplace level.

Participation in free elections is a fundamental human right under international law. Sixteen year olds are already entitled to vote in local and devolved elections in Scotland, Wales, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. Votes at 16 across all of Britain for all elections would strengthen the ability of young people to defend and advance their rights as citizens.

In addition, Communists propose that all parliamentary elections should take place on the basis of the STV system in multi-member constituencies. This would bring about proportional representation without breaking the direct link between elected representatives and meaningful local constituencies. Those elected representatives would be made constantly accountable if electors had the right to petition for a by-election on political grounds, without many of the restrictions imposed by the 2015 Recall of MPs Act.

To create a more level playing field, political parties should not receive any state funding, so that they have to rely largely on voluntary donations from the people they claim to represent. There should be a cap on individual private donations. Corporate political donations should be submitted to a ballot of the employers and employees of the enterprise concerned.

In England, regional mayors should be replaced by democratic regional assemblies with members elected by a proportional representation system and with powers to develop their regional economy.

The role that the mass media could play in promoting and sustaining democratic rights would be transformed by breaking up monopoly ownership and control. Greater diversity of sources and views, a statutory right of reply and an end to the use of injunctions and libel laws by the wealthy and powerful would hugely expand media freedom in Britain.

Often, and with good reason, citizens appreciate and trust local media more than the tabloid press. Local councils should be encouraged to invest in local newspapers and websites which inform people and expand the range of

views. This would reverse the trend to monopoly ownership of dozens of local titles, which results in them losing their local knowledge and character.

THE MORNING STAR

The *Morning Star* is a daily printed and online newspaper that is cooperatively owned by its readers and supporters. Free from big business ownership, it presents news and views rarely seen elsewhere in the mass media. In recent years, the paper has become a 'go to' place for working-class readers who want to know about the full range of opinions about issues such as unemployment, poverty, Brexit, the NHS, education, racism, Scottish independence, overseas wars and the rise of China, Brexit, Zero COVID, what is happening in our schools, why the government demonises China and much more.

Almost alone, the paper has defended local government and the devolved parliaments against centralisation and funding cuts. Communists urge local councils and the devolved parliaments in Scotland and Wales, to buy, display and utilise the *Morning Star* as a unique and precious voice.

PROGRESSIVE FEDERALISM TO COMBAT THE MONOPOLIES

England, Scotland and Wales — so much relies on us all working together. Workers have organised on an all-Britain basis for more than 150 years, in addition to national and regional organisation. A capitalist in Scotland has the same fundamental class interests as a capitalist in London, Wales or Cornwall. But a Scottish worker has more in common with a London bus driver, a Welsh teacher and a Cornish fisherman than a Scots banker.

That is why the Communist Party continues to advocate working-class, labour movement and progressive unity across the nations of Britain in a united fight against a largely united ruling capitalist class.

Economically, our regions and three nations do not exist in glorious isolation, but in mutual co-dependency. For example, almost two-thirds (60%) of

Scotland's exports are to the rest of Britain and around one-fifth (19%) to the EU. Modern industry relies on supply chains and in Britain we have the potential of three progressive governments working together, with no tariff barriers and a common language (in addition to the native languages of Wales, Scotland and Cornwall).

Working together in an All-Britain Recovery Council, the governments of Wales and Scotland and the English regions could collaborate to invest in new industries and technologies, spreading the benefits of new skills such as computer and database engineering, instrument making, gaming and digital communications. This would require planned investment and coordination across sectors including direct links with the university sector and research establishments.

It is essential that the Scottish and Welsh parliaments have the full economic, legislative and financial powers necessary to protect and develop the economic, social and cultural interests of their citizens. Such powers and resources are particularly important for the Scottish and Welsh governments to intervene decisively in the economy, to exercise popular sovereignty over monopoly and market forces.

The seizure of aid to industry powers from the Scottish and Welsh parliaments under the 2020 Internal Market Act must be reversed. This has now been hardwired into the new agreement with the EU: no local content conditions for contractors, no powers to refinance bankrupted companies, no power to 'distort competition' and in most circumstances no state aid to industry except on terms that invite retaliation.

Yet it the ability to intervene in local economies for the well being of local communities is a touchstone of the effectiveness of local governance. The parliaments of Britain, Scotland and Wales together with other elected bodies must be free to benefit from Brexit — although the SNP, Plaid Cymru, the Greens and the LibDems want to return those industrial and competitive tendering powers to the European Union.

Communists advocate a federalism that is progressive. This means it should aid and not hinder the drive needed to shift the balance of wealth and power in favour of the majority. The separation of Scotland and Wales would allow the super-rich concentrated around the City of

London and south-east England to keep the enormous wealth created by the workers of Scotland, Wales and England. Instead, we need a Wealth Tax that would redistribute it to the peoples of every nation and region in Britain.

We want to see working people and their allies exercising increasing control over the capitalist monopolies and the allocation of economic and financial resources at federal, national and regional level. Progressive federalist institutions must be able to respond to the democratic demands of an anti-monopoly alliance of popular forces, led by the labour movement and expressed through political parties, to shift wealth and power away from monopoly control.

A British federal parliament, elected by STV in multi-member constituencies, would have jurisdiction over foreign affairs, defence, macro-economic policy and national insurance, also with the power to raise taxes on wealth and income.

National parliaments in Scotland, Wales and England together with regional assemblies in England and Cornwall should be elected on the same basis, with powers to raise revenue and specifically to advance democratic control through economic planning, public ownership, state investment and public procurement.

The special status enjoyed by monopoly capital in the Isle of Man and Channel Isles, which are run as semi-feudal big business fiefdoms, will have to be ended. Their peoples and parliaments should be integrated into the new federal system.

A federal upper chamber elected by the national parliaments and regional assemblies should have responsibility for upholding national and regional rights and revising legislation.

Powerful local and devolved government would be in a position to establish a programme of public works to create full employment, to help rebuild left-behind areas and to meet the challenges of our time.

SOCIALISM, THE FUTURE FOR SCOTLAND

So far, SNP separatists and Tory unionists have dominated the debate about Scotland's constitutional future. They give no priority to the case for strengthening the Scottish Parliament with the powers and resources needed to promote the interests of the working class and the people generally. They appear to care most about which set of politicians will decide which cuts to make and which multinational companies should get tax breaks and subsidies.

Alongside other sections of the labour movement, the Communist Party wants to see a Scottish Parliament which acts for the country's working people and their families.

The Communist candidates standing in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Motherwell & Wishaw urge workers across Scotland to build a mass movement in communities, workplaces and campuses against austerity, poverty and unemployment; an alliance for jobs, housing, healthcare, education and public services.

The Scottish Government has tried to divert any criticism by arguing that without independence they can't do very much at all; everything that goes wrong can be blamed on Westminster.

But this isn't the truth.

Although Tory governments at Westminster are responsible for imposing austerity on the people of Scotland, successive SNP governments have been perfectly ready to pass on these cuts to the Scottish people. SNP austerity budgets at Holyrood have been passed with the support of Scottish Tories.

SNP ministers have underspent budgets by up to £450 million at a time, even while one of four of Scotland's children live in poverty. The Edinburgh government has forced local councils to implement harsh cuts across the country.

Tragically, the SNP's love affair with the European Union has weakened the effectiveness of the Scottish Parliament instead of enhancing it. Back in

2015-16, the Scottish government capitulated to EU borrowing rules and scrapped, delayed or restructured at least 24 health, education and transport investment projects.

More recently, instead of campaigning to ensure that 112 new policy-making powers repatriated from Brussels by Brexit can be used in Scotland to benefit the Scottish people, the nationalists chose to try to sabotage implementation of the Brexit referendum vote altogether. That would have meant all 112 healthcare, energy, environmental, waste management, transport, public procurement, agricultural, fisheries, animal welfare, forestry, food hygiene, commercial, legal, criminal justice and equalities powers remaining in Brussels — which is where they would return should Scotland rejoin the EU.

While the British Tory government is fighting to keep some of these powers in London, the SNP wants to send them back to Brussels!

Boris Johnson's regime has simply pasted the EU's pro-big business rules into British law. The 2020 Internal Market Act has stripped the Scottish parliament of economic powers as surely as the EU did before. This could mean Fergusons shipyard remaining idle and no lifeline for Bi-Fab to produce wind turbines again.

This is why Communists call for 'popular sovereignty', a rebirth of democracy as it really should be — government by the people in our communities, workplaces, regions and nations. People power over the economy.

THE THIRD OPTION

This is also why there must be a third option — real power and federalism — if the Scottish people and their parliament decide there should be another referendum.

Scotland's Communists call for:

- The return and transfer of economic powers from London and Brussels to Scotland in order to protect jobs and rebuild industry.
- An all-Britain Wealth Tax to promote and equalise prosperity across all the nations and regions of Scotland, England and Wales.
- The decentralisation of powers to restore the ability of local councils to invest in jobs and services in their local communities.

REAL POWER FOR THE PEOPLE OF WALES/ CYMRU

Communists have long campaigned for a 'People's Parliament' for Wales, with real powers transferred from both the European Union and the government at Westminster.

Welsh Communist Party candidates are standing in all five regional lists in the Senedd elections and are campaigning for it have real powers in such areas as economic planning, public ownership, public procurement, public sector borrowing and expenditure, spending on goods and services, wages and collective bargaining and additional social security benefits.

In particular, the Welsh parliament needs the powers to:

- Finance infrastructure investment in local and regional economies. We also need the power in Wales to:
- Replace council tax with a fairer, progressive local income tax.
- Retain a share of PAYE revenues in Wales and introduce taxes and levies on wealth, development land and luxury projects.
- Enforce its own Living Wage policy and industry-specific minimum wage levels.
- Legislate on collective bargaining with workers represented by the union of their choice.

As the result of Brexit, some 70 new policy-making powers should come to the Welsh parliament and government in such areas as transport, energy, water resources, agriculture, the environment, climate change, public procurement contracts, equal rights at work, biodiversity, animal welfare, waste management, food regulation, medical standards and elections.

Welsh Labour, Plaid Cymru, the Greens and the LibDems all wanted these powers to remain in Brussels!

If an 'independent' Wales were to rejoin the EU, these and other powers would automatically return to the European Commission in Brussels and the European Central Bank in Frankfurt.

With all the necessary powers and resources in Cardiff, a left government in Wales could enact policies to plan sustainable economic development; promote new and green technologies at work while reducing hours and maintaining employment; outlaw asset-stripping and mass redundancies; take failing companies into democratic public ownership; assist small, medium and cooperative enterprises to secure their place in key supply chains; and secure the right to work and full employment.

Only the Communist Party calls for real powers for Wales in a federal Britain, free from EU rules and treaties designed to favour the capitalist market and big business.

CONNECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Capitalism brings division and separation and at work it sets worker against worker. As a system, it forces us to struggle and compete for scarce resources within and between every sector and community.

Communists propose a commission of inquiry into how such divisions could be replaced with strategies for cooperation. Across England, Scotland and Wales, it could look into the separation and competition between rural and urban councils and between the needs of the young and those of senior citizens, whose services are often competing within the same budgets.

In particular, important questions need to be asked and answered in order to begin reducing the levels of deprivation and isolation that afflict so many of our local communities:

- Why, in one of the wealthiest modern economies in the world, is internet provision so uneven, costly and inadequate — and how can we ensure a free and good quality service for every community?
 - How best can public transport be revived and the monopoly stranglehold on many local transport systems be broken?
 - How can travel between local areas become affordable and dependable, thereby ending the isolation of so many outlying communities.
- How can the negative impact of out-of-neighbourhood supermarkets on

small towns and high streets best be counteracted?

What can be done to combat those market forces that turn some inner-city and rural areas into the provinces of wealthy part-time residents, often with the consequent loss of housing, community, transport and other facilities and services to local people?

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Widespread drug abuse, crime and anti-social behaviour are — more than anything else — the results of capitalist society's inability to provide all of life's essentials, real opportunities and a fulfilling existence for the mass of people.

One of the greatest achievements of the countries building socialism was to reduce violent and other anti-social criminality to very low levels, based mainly on people's respect for one another and for personal and social property.

In place of an anti-working class criminal justice system which criminalises and imprisons large numbers of petty and non-violent offenders, we need one which understands the value of community and accountable policing, crime prevention, rehabilitation, education, literacy, training, youth services and physical and mental healthcare. An enlightened criminal justice system would endeavour to provide offenders with alternative paths in their own interests and those of society at large.

Constructive alternatives to custody should be developed for most non-violent offenders. The decriminalisation of drug use would signal the end of a failed and counter-productive policy. Drug abuse and addiction need to be combated through school and public health education, combined with substantial investment in treatment, not least within the prison system.

The prison and probation services must be brought back fully into the public sector as part of a comprehensive, integrated and democratically accountable approach. The staff and institutions that deliver all these programmes must also be funded fully, recognising that this outlay will be

more than repaid as levels of violent, anti-social and self-destructive behaviour fall.

Members of criminal gangs who continue their anti-social activities, regardless of the opportunities offered by progressive economic, social and cultural policies, should be subjected to the full force of the law.

A decade of austerity cuts must be reversed. Street lighting should be restored and extended to make our communities safer. Local police stations must open their doors to the public again. More wardens, park attendants and transport staff would make more of our open spaces safe for the public. No locality should be without advice, support and safe accommodation nearby for women and children seeking to escape domestic violence. Can there be a more urgent and necessary priority for action by central, devolved and local government, working in partnership with voluntary sector agencies?

THE PARTY OF SOCIALISM

Britain's Communists have been celebrating its centenary year since last July, involving thousands of participants in dozens of events across England, Scotland and Wales.

The Communist Party is very much part of the British working-class tradition which includes the Merthyr Rising, the Tolpuddle Martyrs, the Chartists, Red Clydeside, the General Strike, the Hunger Marches, the Battle of Cable Street, the International Brigades, Aneurin Bevan and the NHS, the fight for equal pay for women, the UCS Work-In, the Pentonville Dockers and the 1984-85 miners' strike.

We believe that society's wealth is created by those who work, not those who own capital. Workers and their families should prosper. Instead, it's the bankers, big shareholders and speculators who thrive, while working-class communities face the ravages of capitalist market forces.

The Communist Party opposes the exploitation of labour by capital. We urge united resistance to all forms of oppression, especially the scourges of

racism, sexism and homophobia which are used to divide people instead of uniting them in the struggle for a better society, for socialism.

We cannot be bought or sold by any capitalist corporation or government. We say things as we see them. We are a member-led, democratic, united organisation that works to build local and national alliances where this might improves people's lives.

Communist councillors and parliamentary representatives would work alongside those of other parties prepared to put the interests of workers and the people first.

Communist Party candidates across Scotland, Wales and in the regions of England will be campaigning for a mass movement for change in the elections on May 6, an alliance rooted in the labour movement and working-class communities for real self-determination, local democracy and progressive federalism.

We hope readers of this Communist Manifesto will support our campaign, vote Communist and consider joining the Communist Party.

But our campaigning work does not stop on May 6 at the ballot box. For Communists, every day is polling day. Every day is an opportunity to win for working people and their families. For those who are serious about socialism — apply to join us today.

THE CRISIS IS CAPITALISM
THE SOLUTION IS SOCIALISM
VOTE COMMUNIST
VOTE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY
VOTE FOR THE COMMON GOOD



Communist Party

Workers of all lands, unite!

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